

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION; IANEC AND OPANAL

REF: A) MEXICO 13916, B) SAN JOSE 3638, C) STATE 185479
D) STATE 198861

1. AT THE TENTH IANEC MEETING IN LIMA JULY 11-15 THE U.S.
IN NO WAY TOOK A LEADERSHIP ROLE ON QUESTION OF FUTURE
OF IANEC BUT SUPPORTED THE CONSENSUS DEVELOPED AMONG THE
18 OAS MEMBER STATES REPRESENTED THERE. THIS IS CLEARLY
DESCRIBED IN REFTEL D, WHICH EMBASSY MUST HAVE RECEIVED
AFTER SENDING REFTEL A. PARAGRAPH 9 REFTEL D INDICATES
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THE CANDOR WITH WHICH THE U.S. POSITION WAS REFLECTED
DURING IANEC MEETINGS AND THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS NOT
WEDDED TO A SINGLE INSTRUMENT SUCH AS IANEC OR OTHER BODY.
FURTHERMORE U.S. STRESSED THAT IT IS UP TO COUNTRIES OF
REGION TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF INTEREST AND PREFERRED MECHA-
NISM FOR COOPERATION.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO USDEL TO IANEC STATED THAT OUR OBJECTIVE REGARDING IANEC MUST BE TO ALLOW THE ORGANIZATION TO DEFINE ITS FUTURE THROUGH WHATEVER CONSENSUS MIGHT DEVELOP AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS. THESE INSTRUCTIONS INDICATED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO

EXPAND IANEC'S MISSION, ASSUMING THEY ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH U.S. NONPROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE POLICIES AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD DECLARE ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ANY LEVEL OF EFFORT WHICH IS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS INSTRUCTED TO AVOID TAKING ANY EARLY POSITION ON THE PROPOSED ACTION PLAN OR LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE, BUT SUPPORT ANY DEVELOPING CONSENSUS. SIMILARLY, THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT A CONSENSUS IN THE EVENT IT WERE TO DEVELOP, TO DEFER A DECISION TO EXPAND IANEC'S SCOPE IN FAVOR OF STUDYING THE WHOLE QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE FORUMS (E.G., IANEC, OPANAL).

3. IANEC RECOMMENDED A TWO-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES, TO BE FUNDED AT \$400,000 PER YEAR. AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 10, REFTEL D, MEXICO JOINED CONSENSUS ON THIS, THOUGH UNENTHUSIASTICALLY.

4. MEXICO AND U.S. WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT IN GRENADA (OASGA) ON A "REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET FOR IANEC", AS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 4, REFTEL A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IANEC HAS VIRTUALLY NO PROGRAM BUDGET TO BE REDUCED. SECONDLY, THE OASGA DEALT ONLY WITH THE BUDGET FOR JULY-DECEMBER, 1977. THE BUDGET FOR THE 1978-80 BIENNIUM, FOR WHICH IANEC'S \$400,000 PER YEAR IS BEING RECOMMENDED, WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A SPECIAL GA IN NOVEMBER.

5. WHEN THE U.S. SUPPORTED THE CONSENSUS AT IANEC, IT WAS CLEARLY NOT WITH THE IDEA OF DENYING OPANAL OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION A ROLE IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION. OPANAL'S 1977 GENERAL CONFERENCE, HELD IN CARACAS IN APRIL, ADOPTED A RESOLUTION (SPONSORED PRINCIPALLY BY MEXICO) CALLING FOR STUDY OF THE FUTURE ROLE OF OPANAL IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. AS OBSERVERS AT THE CONFERENCE, THE U.S. DID NOT FORMALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION, ALTHOUGH WE INDICATED THAT WE SUPPORTED THE EXAMINATION OF INSTITUTIONAL MEANS OF PROMOTING NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN THE REGION AND THAT WE HAD NO OBJECTION TO STUDYING OPANAL'S FUTURE ROLE.

6. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON THE QUESTION OF

WHICH REGIONAL INSTITUTION OR INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE USED FOR PROMOTING NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA, AND WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN IANEC AND OPANAL (OR SOME OTHER BODY) IN THE ABSENCE OF A CLEARER CONSENSUS WITHIN THE REGION THAN APPEARS TO EXIST AT PRESENT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SUPPORT FOR IANEC'S TWO-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION AND

SUPPORT FOR THE STUDY OF OPANAL'S FUTURE ROLE IN THE PEACEFUL USES FIELD.

7. AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING IN DISCUSSING OUR ATTITUDE ON LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION WITH GONZALEZ GALVEZ. PLEASE ADVISE HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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REACTION ASAP.

8. THE OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES THE OPANAL SECRETARY GENERAL, IN PREPARING HIS STUDY OF POSSIBLE FUTURE OPANAL ROLE, TO DRAW ON THE SERVICES OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS. FYI. IF IT APPEARED DESIRABLE, THE U.S. WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING AVAILABLE TO OPANAL A TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, WORKING IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY BUT AT USG EXPENSE, TO ASSIST SECGEN IN PREPARATION OF STUDY. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REACTION TO THIS IDEA.

9. NEW SCIENCE ATTACHE, ROBERT WILCOX, ATTENDED IANEC MEETING. VANCE

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